

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A needle biopsy system, comprising:
a sampling portion locatable inside the body and including a stylet having a sampling region, a cannula, and a marker lumen extending from a proximal end of the stylet to a marker exit opening, the stylet and cannula being relatively moveable along the stylet axis to position the cannula over the sampling region, and
a sample marker locatable in and releasable from the sampling portion;
wherein the marker lumen is between the stylet and cannula.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the sample marker is locatable between the stylet and the cannula.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1 3 including a supply of multiple markers in the lumen.
5. (Original) The system of claim 4 wherein the markers in the supply are arranged sequentially and generally parallel to the stylet.
6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4 wherein said supply of markers is provided radially around said stylet.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein the supply of markers is rotatable relative to the stylet axis.

8. (Currently amended) The system of claim 13 wherein the marker exit opening is adjacent to a distal end of the stylet.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the stylet includes a side notch and the exit opening is distal of the side notch.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the opening is oriented to eject a marker substantially parallel to the stylet.

11. (Currently amended) The system of claim 13 wherein the stylet includes a side notch and a marker exit opening proximal of the side notch.

12. (Currently amended) The system of claim 13 wherein the stylet includes a side notch and at least one marker exit opening aligned with an end of the side notch.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12 wherein a first exit opening is located adjacent a first axial periphery of the sampling region and a second exit opening is located adjacent a second periphery of the sampling region.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the first exit opening is in the cannula.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the second exit opening is in the cannula.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 including a control handle portion, the control handle portion having a supply of markers.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 including a marker pusher to selectively locate markers in said sampling portion, the pusher being actuated from the control handle portion.

18. (Original) The system of claim 16 including a marker pusher to selectively locate markers in said sampling portion, the pusher being actuated from the handle portion.

19. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the marker is indicative of the axial length of a tissue region from which a sample is taken.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein the marker includes an elongated element.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the elongated element includes regions along its length distinguishable by MRI, ultrasound or fluoroscopy.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein said distinguishable regions are spaced to indicate the length of a tissue region from which a sample is taken.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein at least a portion of the marker is bio degradable.

24. (Original) The system of claim 1 including a supply of markers, a given marker being distinguishable by MRI, ultrasound or fluoroscopy from another marker in the supply.

25. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the marker includes a tissue engaging edge that resists proximal motion of the marker when the marker is in contact with the tissue.

26. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein a marker is magnetically fixed to the exterior of the stylet.

27. (Original) The system of claim 26 wherein the marker is axially translatable by motion of the cannula to release the marker.

28. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein the marker is translated to a location where it is magnetically repulsed from the cannula.

29. (Currently amended) A method of biopsy treatment, comprising:

providing a needle biopsy device including a sampling portion with a stylet having a sampling region, a cannula, and a marker lumen extending from a proximal end of the stylet to a marker exit opening, the stylet and the cannula being relatively moveable to position the stylet over the sampling region, wherein the marker lumen is between the stylet and cannula,

inserting the stylet into a tissue mass,

causing relative motion between the stylet and the cannula to locate the cannula over the sampling region, and

while removing the stylet from the tissue, delivering a marker from the sampling portion into the tissue.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29 including:

inserting the stylet into the tissue mass a second time and delivering a second marker into said tissue mass.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein the markers are distinguishable by ultrasound, fluoroscopy or magnetic resonance.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 comprising correlating the markers with the location of multiple tissue samples, analyzing the samples for abnormal indication, and treating a portion of said tissue mass.

33-34. (Canceled)